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FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VII, No. 7 April 15, 1947 Price 5 Cents

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'T—DAY' IS HERE

—(See From Washington, page 2)

'T-Day' is here, the day on which Senator Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio), chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, moves into action on his plans to cripple unions.

The bill, analyzed in this issue of FTA News, is the result of weeks of hearings before the Senate Labor Committee during which union witnesses were denied the right to speak while scores of employers and employer agents were heard at great length.

It is a bill aimed squarely at every American who works for a living, union member and non-member alike. It is aimed squarely at destroying the painfully acquired living standards that generations of working class struggle have won.

By shackling unions and muzzling the right of the workers to join together for mutual protection, the Taft plan strikes at the heart of American democratic rights.

It would revive the power of the government—and the employers—to secure injunctions against union members when they go on strike, or when a "threatened strike" appears.

It would outlaw the one security that an American industrial worker has—union security.

It would deliver the workers bound hand and foot to the bosses, who can use and have used the government and the Congress to deny the just demands of their employes for decent wages, for shorter hours, for a chance to stand up in a plant or in a union meeting and speak his mind.

Don't be deceived by optimistic talk that such a drastic measure can't be passed through Congress, or that if it is passed, President Truman will veto it and a veto will be sustained.

It can happen here.

In the House, an even more savage anti-labor bill is ready for debate and action. The courts are ready to enforce anti-union injunctions — look what the Supreme Court did to the coal miners. And the bosses' agents in the state legislatures are doing an even more violent job on labor.

These things can happen here—unless we stop them now.

April is Defend Labor Month. All FTA locals, councils and regions have been urged by President Henderson to take their full part with other labor and progressive groups in this fight for life.

Swing into action now—RUSH wires, letters, delegations to Washington. Tell your Congressman and your two Senators:

VOTE AGAINST LABOR-BUSTING BILLS—KEEP AMERICA FREE!

Taft Plans To Crush Unions

See pages 1, 2

FTA Paces Defend Labor Month

See page 3

THE SENATORS HAD NO TIME—

See page 4

FTA LEADS IN ELECTION ROUNDUP

See page 4

They Voted To Cut Your Pay

This is the vote in the Senate on HR 2517, the bill that guts the Wage Hour Act.

Every Senator who voted for the bill might just as well have put his hand into your pocket and taken out a sizable hunk of the change there.

Under the mask of ending "portal" pay suits, HR 2517 turns the Wage Hour Act completely over to the employers to interpret and administer as they see fit.

Every Senator who voted for the bill has a "W" after his name, for a wrong vote. Every Senator who voted against it has an "R" after his name, for a right vote. "O" means the Senator did not vote.

Have you written President Truman, the White House, Washington, D. C., urging him to veto HR 2517?

ALABAMA		**NEBRASKA**	
Lister Hill (D)	R	Hugh Butler (R)	W
John J. Sparkman (D)	R	Kenneth S. Wherry (R)	W
ARIZONA		**NEVADA**	
Carl Hayden (D)	O	Pat McCarran (D)	R
Ernest W. McFarland (D)	R	George W. Malone (R)	W
ARKANSAS		**NEW JERSEY**	
J. W. Fulbright (D)	W	Albert W. Hawkes (R)	W
John L. McClellan (D)	W	H. Alexander Smith (R)	W
CALIFORNIA		**NEW MEXICO**	
Sheridan Downey (D)	R	Dennis Chavez (D)	R
W. F. Knowland (R)	W	Carl A. Hatch (D)	R
COLORADO		**NEW YORK**	
Edwin C. Johnson (D)	R	Irving M. Ives (R)	W
Eugene D. Milikin (R)	W	Robert F. Wagner (D)	O
FLORIDA		**NORTH CAROLINA**	
Spessard L. Holland (D)	W	Wm. B. Umstead (D)	W
Claude Pepper (D)	O	Clyde R. Hoey (D)	W
GEORGIA		**OHIO**	
Walter F. George (D)	W	John W. Bricker (R)	W
Richard B. Russell (D)	W	Robert A. Taft (R)	W
ILLINOIS		**OKLAHOMA**	
C. Wayland Brooks (R)	W	E. H. Moore (R)	W
Scott W. Lucas (D)	R	Elmer Thomas (D)	R
INDIANA		**OREGON**	
Homer E. Capehart (R)	O	Guy Gordon (R)	O
William E. Jenner (R)	W	Wayne Morse (R)	W
IOWA		**PENNSYLVANIA**	
B. B. Hickenlooper (R)	W	Edward Martin (R)	W
George A. Wilson (R)	W	Francis J. Myers (D)	R
KENTUCKY		**SOUTH CAROLINA**	
Alben W. Barkley (D)	R	Olin D. Johnston (D)	R
John S. Cooper (R)	W	Burnet R. Maybank (D)	W
LOUISIANA		**TENNESSEE**	
Allen J. Ellender (D)	W	Kenneth McKellar (D)	W
John H. Overton (D)	W	Tom Stewart (D)	W
MARYLAND		**TEXAS**	
Herbert R. O'Conor (D)	W	Tom Connally (D)	W
Millard E. Tydings (D)	O	W. Lee O'Daniel (D)	W
MICHIGAN		**UTAH**	
Homer Ferguson (R)	W	Elbert D. Thomas (D)	R
A. H. Vandenberg (R)	W	Arthur V. Watkins (R)	W
MINNESOTA		**VIRGINIA**	
Joseph H. Ball (R)	W	Harry F. Byrd (D)	W
Edward J. Thye (R)	W	A. Willis Robertson (D)	W
MISSISSIPPI		**WASHINGTON**	
Theodore G. Bilbo (D)	O	Harry P. Cain (R)	W
James O. Eastland (D)	W	Warren G. Magnuson (D)	R
MISSOURI		**WEST VIRGINIA**	
Forrest C. Donnell (R)	W	Harley M. Kilgore (D)	R
James P. Kem (R)	W	Chapman Revercomb (R)	W
MONTANA		**WISCONSIN**	
Zales N. Ecton (R)	W	Joseph R. McCarthy (R)	W
James E. Murray (D)	R	Alexander Wiley (R)	W

FROM WASHINGTON

'T DAY'—TAFT'S PLAN UNVEILED

By C. W. FOWLER

The Taft plan for shackling unions is out in the open.

After weeks of biased hearings, during which an FTA witness was denied more than two minutes to testify while employers outnumbered union witnesses three to one, the Senate Labor Committee chairman has announced his bill is ready.

The bill is sponsored by Senator Robert A. Taft, (R., O.), who aims to be President after 1948.

This is what the Taft bill would do to unions:

1. Enable the government to stop strikes or "threatened strikes" by injunction.

2. Force the workers to go on working under the same conditions that led to the dispute for 60 days.

3. Force them to go on working another 15 days while the National Labor Relations Board takes a strike vote.

4. Give Congress final power after the 75 days to take any action against the union it sees fit.

But that's not all. According to newspaper accounts of the Taft plan, and according to Taft himself in a press conference, the bill would also:

1. Outlaw the closed shop entirely and restrict the union shop by requiring a majority vote of all workers in the plan to make it legal.

2. Prevent industry wide bargaining by allowing the boss, and the boss alone, to choose whether or not he shall bargain locally, nationally or industrially.

3. Allow employers to call elections whenever they see fit.

4. Subject the National Labor Relations Board to court review of its decisions, resulting in endless disputes.

5. Favor craft unions over industrial unions by banning industrial certification unless the union wins a majority in all units of an industry or company, and by prohibiting mixed units of production and while collar workers.

6. Exclude all foremen from the bargaining unit.

7. Hamper organizing by outlawing "coercion" of non-union members—"coercion" being carefully undefined in the reported bill.

8. Ban secondary boycotts and jurisdictional strikes.

9. Ban strikes "in violation of collective bargaining," with heavy penalties on the union. "Violation" is also left undefined.

That's the list, as reported in the daily papers. At time of writing, the bill had not been printed or even given to the Senators.

Now let's see what the Taft plan aims to do to FTA.

In the first place, the 75 day "cooling-off" period is aimed especially at seasonal industries. Many FTA operations are completed in 75 days—as in fresh fruit and vegetable packing sheds. Bargaining does not begin until the season starts. A 75 day "cooling-off" would rob the workers of their one economic weapon against stubborn employers.

Outlawing the closed and union shop would force seasonal workers to rebuild their union for each season. Excluding foremen would rob many workers who become temporary foremen during peak season of all protection.

Outlawing industry-wide bargaining is aimed against workers in chain companies — such as Campbell Soup, Quaker Oats, cotton oil, canneries in trade associations, etc.

Allowing the boss to call elections means he can call one the minute an FTA card is signed in the plant. It means he can terrorize workers to his heart's content, then stampede them into a no-union vote on his own timing.

This is aimed particularly at unorganized, sub-standard industries such as many in the South, where the workers are new to unionism, and where they are oppressed more than elsewhere.

Favoring craft over industrial unions is also aimed at FTA, since FTA is the only international, industrial union covering the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries.

And so on—this is only a partial analysis of the bill, as reported to the newspapers by Taft.

T Day—the day of the Taft plan against labor—is here.

Defend Labor Month is being marked all over the U.S. now.

What are YOUR local and YOUR community doing about it?

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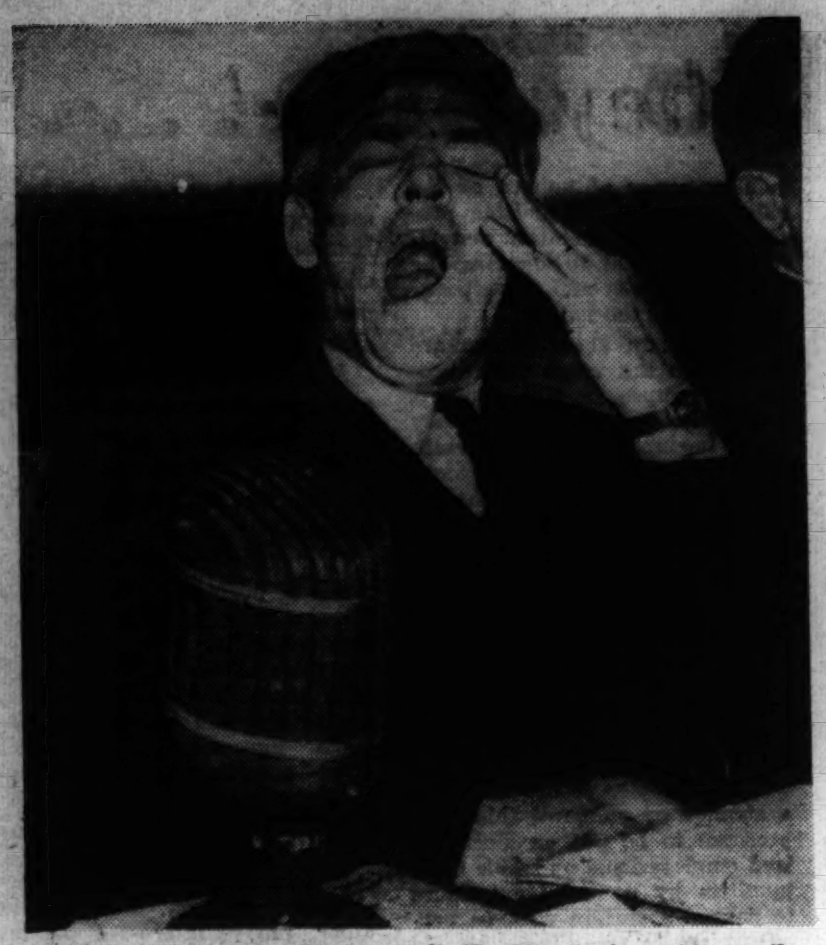


Oh, the tedium of it all! Sen. Ball (R., Minn.) shows his tonsils for the photographer during Senate Labor Committee testimony on anti-union bills. The boy wonder apparently finds it tiring to listen to the workingman's side of the story.

FTA PACES DRIVE TO DEFEND LABOR

FTA plans for full participation in "Defend Labor Month," set for April by the national CIO, were shaping up this week with delegations set to go to Washington to talk to their Congressmen and with FTA locals, councils and regions taking part in activities with other unions and progressive groups.

Acting on letters sent out by FTA President Henderson, and Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly, locals were planning delegations to Washington for April 21, 22 and 23.

"The purpose of these delegations is to urge Congressmen and Senators to vote against anti-labor legislation, and, just as important, to give your delegates the opportunity to learn at first hand just what is going on in Washington, to make plans for political and legislative action in the locals and to take back a report from Washington which will help your local in its actions at home," the call for the delegations said.

Locals were asked to send from one to five delegates, prepared to stay the three days in Washington visiting their Congressmen and discussing the legislative situation with FTA national officers.

In addition, the delegates will visit committee hearings, watch their Congressmen on the floor from the House and Senate galleries, and generally learn the ropes around Capitol Hill.

Final session will be a round-table discussion among all the delegates of the results and impressions of their visit to their Representatives and Senators. Speakers from the national CIO Political Action Committee will be at the session.

Meantime, reports coming into President Henderson's office show that FTA locals and councils are actively working with CIO and other unions and progressive groups in their home communities.

As FTA News went to press, reports had come in from FTA regions and locals in the East, in the Mid-West, in the South and in the Southwest, listing activities already under way or planned.

Texas reported planning at least one delegate to Washington and participation in a number of mass meetings with other unions in FTA areas of the state. April 20 has been selected as a day of simultaneous mass meetings throughout the state, in which FTA will take part.

From Iowa, Louis Jedlicka reported mass meetings, petition drives, radio programs, letter writing campaigns and visits to the state legislature on FTA's program.

From the Northeast, Director Severino Martinez reported taking part in a city-wide conference meeting there and plans by New York and New Jersey locals to send delegates to Washington.

The Tri-State Region reported, through Director Franko Green, that its locals were planning leaflet distribution, using the CIO leaflet "Defend Your Union," radio programs, advertising, and mass rallies. Local 22 of Winston-Salem, N. C., is sending delegates to Washington.

From further South, Local 15 at Charleston, S. C., listed its community activities along the same lines. In the Mid-West Regional Director Harry Virgil reported that wires were sent protesting anti-labor bills of Senators and Congressmen from Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. A delegation is also reported coming from Milwaukee, Wis., and from Locals 191 and 495.

HOUSE SAYS—ME TOO

While Senator R. A. Taft (R., Ohio) unlimbers his biggest guns against labor in the Senate Labor Committee (see page 2), the House Labor Committee, headed by Rep. Fred A. Hartley (R., N.J. is polishing an even more vicious bill in secret caucuses of the committee majority.

Congressional committee majorities, incidentally, are not supposed to work in secret when it comes to readying a bill for action on the floor. Under standard procedure, the bill is supposed to be discussed in full committee, with dissenting members given the right to issue a minority report at the same time the majority acts.

Enough of the contents of the Hartley bill, however, has leaked out to expose its brutally anti-union character.

To begin with, the Hartley bill repeals the Wagner Act outright. No bones about it—the Wagner Act is simply repealed. Hartley's bill is to be the supreme law of the land.

Secondly, the Hartley bill gives the government the right to get out a permanent injunction against unions whenever the "public welfare" demands it.

Anyone ever hear of a strike that wasn't against the "public welfare"—as far as the employers and their agents in Congress are concerned?

The Hartley bill outlaws all forms of union security—closed shop, union shop, etc. It provides injunctions against "mass picketing" which it defines, according to newspaper accounts, as anymore than "enough to give notice of a labor dispute in a plant."

It bars members of the Communist party from membership in a union, sets stiff penalties for all violations of its terms—the mildest being loss of collective bargaining rights—and in general just about outlaws every legal right a union member now possesses.

That's the Hartley bill—worked out in secret caucuses, ready now to shove down the nation's throat as soon as the bosses behind it give the word.

The word that can stop it is yours—the word and deed of protest to your Congressman, the word and deed of unity with all workers and all fairminded people against Hitler-like labor laws.

Tell Congress

Bills To Wreck Wage Hour Act

Both House and Senate have passed HR 2517, which under the mask of outlawing "portal" suits, completely guts the Fair Labor Standards Act. Bill allows bosses to rewrite the act to suit their own interpretations, makes collection of back pay owed to workers illegal. This is the first big anti-labor measure Congress has passed.

ACTION: Pour in wires to President Harry S. Truman, White House, Washington, D. C. urging him to veto HR 2517 and reminding him of his pledge to defend gains of New Deal days.

Anti-Labor Bills, Senate

Hearings completed on bills to outlaw checkoff, union security deny right to strike and repeal Wagner Act. Other bills by Ives (R., N. Y.), Ferguson (R., Mich.), Smith (R., N. J.) set up labor courts, allow boss to refuse to bargain, also wreck Wagner Act. Taft bill reported ready for action. (See page 2.)

ACTION: Wire your two Senators to vote against all pending measures "regulating" labor.

House

Rep. Hartley (R., N.J.) has announced his main bill, even more vicious than Case bill vetoed and defeated last year. Rep. Howard Smith (D., Va.), Clare Hoffman (R., Mich.) have bills in to define most food processing workers as "agricultural" labor and deny protection of Wagner act, outlaw strikes.

House action expected soon in barrage of red-baiting attacks on all labor.

ACTION: Tell your Representative (House Office Bldg., Washington 25, D. C.), hands off labor, vote against all union-busting bills.

Minorities

Rep. J. Parnell Thomas (R., N. J.), chairman of the un-American Committee, and others have bills in to outlaw Communist party, as proposed by Labor Secretary Schwellenbach. If passed, this will be only first of a series of laws denying free speech, etc. to other minorities. Hitler began in Germany by outlawing political parties, moved on to abolish unions, make war on entire world.

ACTION: Write your Representative to vote against. Tell him: DON'T LET IT HAPPEN HERE.

FIGHT LABOR IMPORT AS WAGE CUT LEVER

Two weeks ago, FTA-CIO predicted that grower-shipper attempts to import foreign farm labor would bring back the old "Grapes of Wrath" days if Congress permitted the employers to bring in thousands of Mexican nationals for work at sub-standard wages.

Without bothering to wait for Congress, fruit and vegetable grower-shippers in the Imperial Valley of California and in Arizona are trying to do just that, with the cooperation of the U. S. Immigration Service.

This is the pitch: about three weeks ago, a Mr. Albert Delguercio of the Immigration service notified the CIO Regional Director in Los Angeles, Calif., that the Imperial Valley Farmers Assn., Inc., and the Yuma Producers Cooperative Assn. of Arizona had asked to be allowed to import 2,000 Mexican workers for field labor—at 60c an hour.

Mr. Delguercio granted the request, without consulting FTA Local 78 or anyone else—except the American Legion, which approved. Mr. Delguercio it should be remembered, is the man who tried so many years to get Harry Bridges, leader of the CIO Longshoremens Union, deported.

Sixty cents an hour is represented as the "going" wage for field labor. Actually, the importation move is designed to break down FTA-CIO wage standards in the huge California-Arizona fresh fruit and vegetable packing industry, where Local 78 has the sheds organized.

As such, it is being fought vigorously by FTA and CIO, both in the areas affected and nationally. Protests have been sent to Immigration Commissioner Ugo Carusi in Philadelphia and to Delguercio in Los Angeles.

During the war, FTA supported importation of foreign labor because the food was needed to win the war. Today, FTA is opposing it as an attempt to create a "labor surplus" for the sole purpose of beating down wages.

Political action is the subject of this discussion by officers and members of FTA-CIO Local 10, several of whom came to Washington on FTA's last delegation.

The Senators Had No Time . . . .

Every human being longs for a life made happy with freedom and security. Through our union, my fellow workers and I have made the first steps toward that kind of life that we have never known.

It has opened our eyes, and put gladness in our hearts. It has given us strength, and hope. We love our union.

There are bills before this committee designed to weaken our organization, to make it helpless, to keep it from continuing to build and carry us onward.

You know what the Four Freedoms mean to people of the whole world. Freedom of Speech, Freedom from Fear, Freedom from Want, Freedom of Religion. For the workers of Winston-Salem, and for millions of others, their union organizations are making these freedoms something more than just words.

How can you talk of these things, and at the same time proceed to cripple and destroy the very thing that puts them into effect for the vast majority of the people?

Freedom of Speech means nothing at all to a worker unless he is free to speak out fully and freely about the things that make his life what it is. But how many workers in how many plants can do that, without a union?

If any of you ever worked in an industrial plant, you know what happens to a fellow who talks up too much about the way he's being treated.

Grown people have a right to talk to each other based on facts. That's Freedom of Speech. But the only way you can have it in a factory is to have a union, and a contract, and a shop steward.

And I'd like to ask you, what is it that can give a worker Freedom from Fear, except the comfortable knowledge that his fellow workers are joined with him, and all are working together with a common pledge to help each other?

By himself a worker is alone and afraid—afraid of unemployment, afraid of sickness that will wreck his efforts to build a home and security, afraid of getting on the wrong side of someone who can hurt him.

That's why union security is so important to us. The union shop, check-off, maintenance of membership provisions—all these are simply ways of guaranteeing that our organization is going to stay solid, and we'll keep on having something strong to back us up, so we will not have to be afraid.

To tamper with that democratic right robs us of our security, leaves us wide open to attack, and pushes us backward toward the fear that comes with insecurity.

Now take Freedom from Want. This is supposed to be the richest country in the world, but millions of good, working citizens have suffered from want, and millions are still far below a decent standard of living.

Four years ago, in Winston-Salem, many workers were making less than 40 cents an hour. Now, because of the efforts of our union, FTA-CIO, the lowest-paid group of workers at Reynolds has a minimum of 72 cents an hour.

I shudder to think of the condition we would be in now, with the legalized price robbery that is being practiced on us, if it had not been for the union—for FTA-CIO.

The union gives us a chance to plan our lives, to provide education for our children, to keep up our strength and health and energy, to develop our own understanding and citizenship. The economic gains that are necessary to raise the whole level of life in our nation can be won by unions, and unions alone. There is no other way that workers can bargain for themselves.

Weakening the bargaining power of unions, as the bills before this committee propose to do, is absolutely and directly equivalent to lowering the living standards and the citizenship level of the nation.

To be plain about it, we are already on the verge of an economic collapse in this country, because prices are so high they are piling up the nation's wealth in a few people's hands as record profits, and at the same time are rapidly exhausting the people's purchasing power.

Unless collective bargaining by strong unions straightens that out, and gets wages back in line with the cost of living, another awful breakdown and depression is inevitable.

Freedom of Religion is involved with the freedom of the working people. It has not been a strange or unknown thing for pressure to be put on disorganized employes and on whole communities by powerful employers to believe a certain way, to persecute and silence certain groups.

Organized in their own independent, strong unions, employes can resist such pressure and have real freedom to believe as they choose. Not only that, but when workers are held down in poverty and ignorance they are easy prey for religious quacks and corrupt fascist demagogues who trade on the vilest motives of hate and fear and superstition, in the name of religion.

Bills which would weaken his chance for independence and security by weakening his unions, are a move backward toward making religion a tool of power.

Mr. Taft and members of this committee, we don't ask much. Just a home, the right to a job, and the chance to educate our children and prepare ourselves for better citizenship. But what chance do we have for that unless we are able to organize?

We have been able to make some gains through our unions. If the unions are wrecked we will slide backward again, and every problem of our society will be sharpened and made worse.

A society that hopes to be free and prosperous cannot afford to carry the load of a great mass of citizens who are barely able to live just above the level of animals.

Companies bargain on all other items of business. They bargain for the materials they buy and sign contracts. They bargain on the price of the goods they sell with those who buy. They organize and join associations and make agreements with each other—sometimes against the public.

Bargaining is the whole base of our economy. But when it comes to labor, the bosses want complete control, without the other party interested having any ability to bargain effectively.

And finally, Mr. Chairman, I want to tell you it has been a blow to the workers to find that here in our great Capital, where the representatives of the people are supposed to uphold the Constitution and work for the interests and equal rights of all citizens; that even here, there is discrimination and those who have money and power are favored.

What kind of freedom of speech are you upholding when spokesmen for workers are limited to two minutes time before the committee, and the committee takes hours to talk about freedom of speech for employers?

Workers of all races and nationalities have been good enough to help build America. We have been good enough to carry the load of freeing our nation and keeping it free at the sacrifice of our lives.

Most of the fruits of our labor are now enjoyed and controlled by others, it is true, but I still think the representatives of the workers are entitled to a little better share of this committee's time than two minutes.

The Senators had no time to listen to this story of what a union means to a worker.

When Sister Moranda Smith, a Winston-Salem tobacco worker and a member of FTA's Executive Board tried to present this testimony to the Senate Labor Committee she was brusquely told by its chairman, Sen. Robert A. Taft (R., O.) "you have exactly two minutes."

Two minutes to tell the worker's side of the case against anti-labor bills. Two minutes to tell the difference between economic slavery and freedom . . . two minutes to tell of the workers' fear that reaction is out to destroy unions.

FTA News presents Sister Smith's testimony to our members, believing it tells a story you will want to hear—even if the Senators were afraid to let it be heard.

MORANDA SMITH

ELECTION ROUNDUP—FTA IN LEAD

(Special to FTA News)

(Ed. Note: The following article was prepared for FTA News by the CIO Organizing Committee.)

Putting the lie to statements of critics that "the CIO drive is not getting anywhere in the South," the CIO Organizing Committee revealed today that the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers of America-CIO has increased its signed-up membership by more than 15,000 in the South since the CIO's concentrated campaign opened late last May.

Of the more than 400 National Labor Relations Board elections the Organizing Committee has won, 60 were for the FTA, and petitions for 40 more are now pending with the Board.

And the FTA victories have not by any means been all small ones. Workers in some of the largest plants in the field have voted for the union and set up their own locals.

Late last summer Organizing Committee representatives under the leadership of Area Director Charles Cowl set up offices in Tampa, Fla.—virgin territory so far as the CIO was concerned—and after a whirlwind campaign won an NLRB election, 1066 to 156, at the plant of the Pasco Packing Co. in Dade City. Pasco, now employing approximately 2,000 workers, is the world's largest citrus packing plant.

In Eastern North Carolina, heart of the tobacco country, the workers of several large tobacco processing houses have formed a single local which now has more than 10,000 members.

(This local, FTA No. 10, and others formed during the Southern drive are now in the process of consolidation, aimed at developing a strong, dues paying membership. Several are engaged in negotiations, preparing for the opening of the season's work.)

Following are elections won by FTA and the number of workers involved:

W. Adams Tobacco Co., Oxford, N. C., 275; Alabama Warehouse Co., Troy, Ala., 45; Allied Feed Mills, Memphis, Tenn., 56; American Tobacco Co., Charleston, S. C., 1,565 (election held to repel AFL invaders); Arkansas Fertilizer Co., Little Rock, Ark., 59; Bay Fruit Co., Charleston, S. C., 12; Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., Greenwood, Miss., 65; Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., Jackson, Miss., 122; Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., Montgomery, Ala., 103; Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., Selma, Ala., 80;

China American Tobacco Co., Rocky Mount, N. C., 621; Corinth Brick Co., Corinth, Miss., 80; H. C. Cole Milling Co., Memphis, Tenn., 16; Cumberland Tobacco Works, Nashville, Tenn., 58; Dixie Leaf Tobacco Co., Kinston, N. C., 450; Dunnington Tobacco Co., Farmville, Va., 130; Export Tobacco Co., Greenville, N. C., 300; Export Tobacco Co., Kinston, N. C., 325;

Export Tobacco Co., Oxford, N. C., 225; Export Tobacco Co., Rocky Mount, N. C., 185; Export Leaf Tobacco Co., South Boston, Va., 180; Farmers Produce Co., Memphis, Tenn., 21; Federal Compress Co., Greenwood, Miss., 35; Federal Compress & Warehouse Co., Corinth, Miss., 25; E. B. Ficklen Tobacco Co., Greenville, N. C., 370; Greenville Tobacco Co., Greenville, N. C., 225; Henderson Tobacco Co., Henderson, N. C., 110; Imperial Tobacco Co., Greenville, N. C., 700; Imperial Tobacco Co., Ltd., Kinston, N. C., 310;

Interstate Tobacco Co., Lumberton, N. C., 175; Imperial Tobacco Co., Oxford, N. C., 200; L. B. Jenkins Redrying Co., Inc., Greenville, Tenn., 17; L. B. Jenkins Tobacco Co., Kinston, N. C., 554; Meridian Grain & Elevator Co., Meridian, Miss., 100; Nashville Cotton Oil Co., Nashville, Tenn., 100; Pasco Packing Co., Dade City, Fla., 2,000; Pearson & Garratt Tobacco Co., Greenville, N. C., 275; I. M. Perlstein Sons, Charleston, S. C., 50; Planters Cotton Oil & Fertilizer Co., Rocky Mount, N. C., 83; Port Compress Co., Corpus Christi, Texas; 85; Pritchard Rice Milling Co., Houston, Texas, 47; Putney Tobacco Co., Farmville, Va., 40; R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Greenville, N. C., 65; Southern Compress and Warehouse Co., Houston, Texas, 90; Southern Shell Fish Co., Harvey, La., 986; Standard Chemical Co., Troy, Ala., 84;

Suffolk Oil Mills, Inc., Suffolk, Va., 35; Suffolk Peanut Co., Suffolk, Va., 222; Suhling Tobacco Co., Lynchburg, Va., 63; Tallulah Gin & Cotton Oil Co., Tallulah, La., 68; J. P. Taylor Tobacco Co., Goldsboro, N. C., 550; J. P. Taylor Co., Henderson, N. C., 620; J. P. Taylor Co., Inc., South Boston, Va., 457; Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corp., North Little Rock, Ark., 23; Walbrook Tobacco Co., Goldsboro, N. C., 425; E. V. Webb Tobacco Co., Kinston, N. C., 250;

Wheatley Mayonnaise Co., Jacksonville, Fla., 40; Whitehead & Anderson Tobacco Co., Lumberton, N. C., 275; Johnson William & Co., Charleston, S. C., 14.

FTA LEADS FIGHT ON TEXAS SCAB LAWS

FTA is in the lead in the fight against anti-union bills in the Texas state legislature, sending more delegates than any other labor union in the state to a recent demonstration in the capitol at Austin.

Paced by FTA Local 75, the delegates from other labor and farm and civic organizations appeared before both the state House and Senate Labor Committees to oppose a so-called "anti-closed shop" bill introduced by Marshall O. Bell of San Antonio.

Actually, the bill outlaws any form of union shop requirement in a contract, and is backed by the notorious "Fight for Free Enterprise" groups and the "Christian Americans" — who have been described by leading churchmen as "neither Christian nor American."

Appearing for FTA, Regional Director Harry Koger told the committee: "I believe that if the members of this committee could come with me into Mr. Bell's own city of San Antonio, and see some of the miserable shacks his constituents are forced to live in, the poor and inadequate food they eat, the ragged clothes they wear—I sincerely believe you would throw this vicious bill out of the window and pass some legislation which would protect these unfortunate human beings in their fight for a decent life through labor organization."

IN MEMORIAM

FTA mourns the death of Local 18 President W. H. Wheeler and Chief Steward Earl S. Burns, DeKalb, Ill., who were killed in a train collision on March 26. To their family, friends and local union brothers and sisters, the National Office and FTA News extend deepest sympathy.

These Treasure Island Food workers of Oakland, Calif., hit the bricks to force a showdown on company recognition of FTA as bargaining agent. Boss got a jolt when company union plus AFL goons failed to break down workers' determination to go FTA. Strikers are holding out for an NLRB election.

'BLIND PENNY' COULD SEE WHAT FTA MEANT

Folks around Whiteville, N. C., know him only as Blind Penny.

They're accustomed to seeing him being led to and from work at Reliance Guano Co., where he's been employed a number of years.

Penny lost the sight of both eyes while working with acid, but total blindness didn't keep him from earning his own living.

Sympathetic friends lead Blind Penny to his work post at the plant, where he shovels fertilizer into two-wheeled, hand-drawn carts.

Blind Penny heard about FTA-CIO when tobacco workers in this region were being organized by FTA. He said he wanted to join FTA-CIO, too, and he did.

He then began campaigning for a union at Reliance and he spoke of himself as an example of "working folks that need union protection." He spoke spiritedly about the need for improved working conditions.

One day Blind Penny was led into a National Labor Relations Board polling place to cast his ballot. The Board agent, who had never before assisted a blind man in voting, sized up the situation quickly.

The agent placed Penny's left thumb over the word "yes" on the ballot and his right thumb over the word "no." He told the blind man what he had done.

Penny said later that he took a pencil and made a "neat X" in the "yes" square on the ballet. FTA won the election 34 to 9.

Elijah Jackson, CIO organizer, said that "Blind Penny was able to see without difficulty what nine men with good eyesight couldn't see—the real need for a CIO union."

AFL TRY FLOPS IN CALIFORNIA CANNERY

The AFL Teamster-Cannery Worker leadership in California, who loved to yell "disrupter" at FTA-CIO during perfectly legitimate NLRB election campaigns in 1945 and 1946, tried a little disrupting of their own last week.

Sneaking into action during a slack season low when only 59 workers were on the payroll, the Teamster leadership sponsored a move to lead the FTA-CIO Pacific Grape Products plant at Modesto, California, back into the AFL.

The move was out of bounds for the following reasons:—

1. The plant voted FTA-CIO by a margin of 496 to 76 last September 1. FTA-CIO has been certified officially by the NLRB as the collective bargaining agent of the Pacific Grape Workers.

2. The plant is currently operating under a closed shop agreement with FTA-CIO, which gives the union the power to suspend and remove from the job any members found guilty of dual union activities.

3. There are no legal grounds for opening the question of representation in the off-season less than a year after a decisive election and during a time when a duly certified union is holding a closed shop contract.

On a basis of these facts, FTA-CIO went into immediate action.

Union leaders in the plant posted notices informing the workers they were endangering their jobs by engaging in dual union activities. A number of workers who had unwittingly signed a pro-AFL petition circulated by a small group repudiated their signatures.

The union executive board went into emergency session and made the following announcement:—

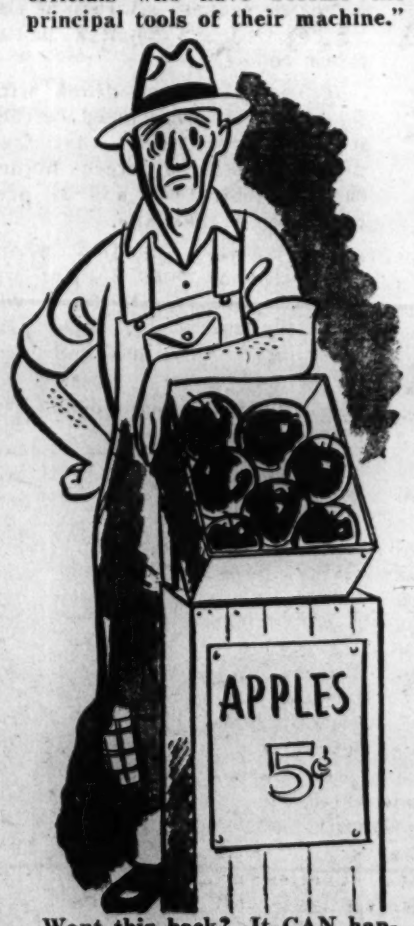
"The board agreed that, although there have been serious violations of the union constitution, the most important problem facing the workers at Pacific Grape is the negotiation of a contract covering the 1947 working season. To win a good contract, all of the workers in the plant must be united and working together."

Red Scare Boss' Trick

The late General Pelham D. Glassford was a conservative man, not above a little red-baiting himself from time to time. But some things he couldn't swallow . . .

In 1934 Gen. Glassford went to the Imperial Valley in California as a government conciliator to look into labor disputes there. Said the General in his report:

"After more than two months of observation and investigation in Imperial Valley, it is my conviction that a group of growers have exploited a 'communist' hysteria for the advancement of their own interests; that they have welcomed labor agitation, which they could brand as 'Red' as a means of sustaining supremacy by mob rule, thereby preserving what is essential to their profits—cheap labor; that they have succeeded in drawing into their conspiracy certain county officials who have become the principal tools of their machine."



Want this back? It CAN happen again—if the bosses and their stooges have their way with anti-union bills now in Congress. CIO's newest leaflet, "It Happened Before" tells how to fight union-busting bills. Order from Publicity Dept., CIO, Washington 6, D. C. $12 per 1,000.

BOSS, AFL GOONS FAIL TO BUDGE FTA PICKETS

By Hugo Armstrong, President Local 50

Refusing to let the company pick out a "suitable" union for them, workers at the Treasure Island Food Products Co. in Oakland, Calif., are on strike to win company recognition of the union they choose themselves—FTA-CIO. The overwhelming majority of the workers are members of FTA Local 50.

Company manager H. Leuenberger, after ignoring FTA's letter asking recognition, tried to win the workers over to a company union. When this failed, layoffs followed without regard to seniority.

FTA filed for a consent election with the NLRB. The company still wouldn't budge. March 11 the workers hit the bricks and no work has been done inside the plant since.

Seeing that a company union didn't appeal to the workers, Leuenberger called in the AFL. This too the workers snubbed.

The next day 75 AFL goons descended on the FTA picket line. The 25 FTA pickets proved themselves no easy picking for the 75 strike-busters. Twice they resisted attempts to crack the line. Defeated, the goons slunk off and did not return again.

Meanwhile, FTA strikers are more solid than ever. They are determined to lick the low wages, discrimination and segregation in the plant. They are determined the Treasure Island management shall bargain with the union the workers want.

Until an NLRB election is held with all laid-off workers allowed to vote, the picket line will remain—singing and confident.

Pickets are fed by soup committee members Florence Harrington, Zellina Brown and Corrie Wilkins. Ruby Thrower, chairman of the strike committee, is assisted by Arthur Terry and Rosabell Griffin.

ASK FUNDS TO HELP COTTON OIL STRIKERS

An appeal for aid to the Southern Cotton Oil Strikers Defense Committee was made by Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane this week to FTA locals.

Harold J. Lane

"You have received repeated requests for help and many of you have come through in good shape, but this fight is far from being over," Lane said.

"Unless this Defense Committee receives financial assistance in substantial amounts immediately to help pay attorney fees, to help pay the cost of carrying this fight to the Supreme Court, to help pay the cost of their brief printed, they may be faced with the very heartbreaking decision of not being able to defend the members of Local 98 who were illegally convicted."

The members were on Local 98's picketline around the Southern Cotton Oil Co. in Little Rock, Ark., last December, when they were arrested following the brutal murder of Walter Campbell, an FTA striker.

Lane proposed the following two methods of raising funds: (1) make a substantial contribution from your local treasury—(2) vote one hour's pay per week until this fight is won.

Contributions should be sent to Georgia Morris, Secretary, Southern Cotton Oil Co. Strikers Defense Committee, 119 Glover Building, Little Rock, Ark.

FLORIDA CIO LAUDS FTA ELECTION DRIVE

By Paul Crouch, Editor Union Record, Fla. State CIO Newspaper

Keynote of the recent two-day Florida State CIO convention was unity of CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods in defense of present rights of workers, and organization of the unorganized. The presence of three fraternal delegates from the Cuban trade unions was a highlight of the convention.

John Lackner, regional director, FTA, was reelected state president, as were Edwin E. Waller, an FTA Organizer, secretary-treasurer and Charles N. Smolikoff, director of organization.

President Lackner reviewed the progress made by the CIO during the year. He urged close cooperation between the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brothers to defeat anti-labor legislation in Congress and the state legislature, to defeat Florida Attorney-General Tom Watson's open shop program.

Tribute was paid to the fine work done by National FTA in organizing Florida workers.

John Riffe, who attended as the representatives of Van A. Bitner, Southern CIO drive director, reported that in recent months the CIO has won over 400 elections in Southern states. He said that in Mississippi the CIO has won as many elections as in any Southern state, in spite of Bilbo and his friends speaking against the CIO at public meetings during the elections.

"Let no one bring in any political, religious or racial issues," Riffe told the convention, declaring that the present "witch hunts and scare publicity is designed to split the ranks of labor and not to make the country better."

Dr. Harry F. Ward, of Union Theological Seminary, New York, paid tribute to the CIO as the "most powerful force for progress in the United States." Discussing the international situation the famous minister, writer and teacher said: "The line in the world today is between believers in democracy and reactionary and pro-fascist forces."

Dr. Ward denounced use of the atomic bomb which, he said, kills few soldiers but many women and children and "is a return to the morality of the beasts" and in violation of every principle of civilization.

United action with the AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods in support of existing progressive legislation and resistance against all attacks by reactionary forces which are trying to destroy all rights of Labor was strongly urged.

In The Locals

FTA COUNCILS PAY

Workers at the Quaker Oats plant in Memphis, Tenn., know from their own experience how much a company-wide council like the Quaker Oats Joint Council can mean. For the first time, they received the same pay increase that had previously been won by Quaker Oats workers in the north.

Early last month, the Quaker Oats Co. in Memphis came through with an across the board increase of 12c an hour. The increase raised the minimum at the plant to 77c. This was the same 12c increase won last year by Quaker Oats workers in Akron, Ohio. Workers at the Memphis plant are members of Local 19.

There is still more than a 30c differential between Quaker Oats workers in Memphis and Akron, but the southern workers are convinced that through the council, this too, will be taken care of.

FTA LEADS HOUSING DRIVE IN CALIFORNIA

When more than 1,000 California veterans, their families and supporters converged on the state capitol in Sacramento in a giant housing caravan March 23-24, FTA-CIO was in the forefront.

On hand dishing out doughnuts at the State Fair grounds when the units of the cavalcade came rolling in from all parts of the state was FTA International Organizer Pat Verble. The CIO in Sacramento was in charge of the doughnut booth.

Prominent among the many cars in the cavalcade was an entry from FTA Local 82 in Modesto, proudly emblazoned with signs identifying it as the joint entry of Local 82 and of the American Veterans Committee in Modesto.

Riding in the car were Mrs. Alice Tucker and President Roy Maramonte of Local 82 and Delmer Berg of the AVC. Mrs. Tucker is also an active member of the VFW Auxiliary.

FTA International Organizer Hursel Alexander was a member of the Oakland contingent of the motorcade.

The motorcade gathered Sunday night at the State Fair grounds for a giant mass meeting built around the theme of the urgent need for veteran's housing in California.

The next day the cars paraded loudly with motorcycle escort to the state capitol where the legislature was in session, discussing highways instead of housing.

There were 300 veterans and sympathizers in the contingent which filed into the capitol building on Monday. From 9:30 until 11:45 they thronged the corridors, taking their pleas to assemblymen and senators individually.

Mrs. Tucker and Maramonte complained that State Senator Hugh Donnelly and Assemblyman Ralph M. Brown seemed to be "out" all morning. The two solons represent Stanislaus county, in which Modesto is located.

At 11:45 the Assembly recessed to hear the veterans. Harper W. Poulson of Los Angeles, caravan spokesman, explained that the proposals which the caravan was laying before the legislature were "not radical or great, not terribly advanced — just the crumbs of the program veterans, labor and civic organizations of the state asked for on housing."

The veterans asked for:—

1. A state appropriation of $100,000,000 for low cost rental housing projects.

2. A $35,000,000 state appropriation for emergency conversion of army barracks to temporary housing.

3. State rental control at present ceilings.

4. Outlawing restrictive covenants.

The state senate also recessed in the afternoon to hear the program.

The FTA delegation returned to Modesto full of enthusiasm. "It was wonderful," said Mrs. Tucker.

293 Wins Pact

St. Michael's Cemetery workers, members of Local 293, New York, ended their seven-week strike on March 27 with the signing of their first contract.

Chief demand of the union was met with management agreeing to allocate two percent of the payroll for a group insurance fund administered by the union.

Gravediggers are not covered by social security laws.

Union shop, checkoff of dues, a five cent an hour increase bringing the rate up to $1.09 an hour, and six holidays with pay were other gains won by the strikers.

Vacations were increased to three weeks with pay for employees with 25 years' seniority.

Northeast Council to Meet

Delegates to the Northeast Regional Council meeting on April 19 to 20 have a special treat in store for them. Rank and file members of Local 105 are preparing a delicious chicken dinner for Saturday evening.

The meeting will convene at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Hamilton Inn in New Brunswick, N. J.

Locals are to be represented on the basis of one delegate for 100 members or less; two delegates up to 250 members; three delegates up to 500 members; four delegates up to 1,000 members and one additional delegate for each 500 members or fraction thereof over 1,000 members.

FTA '1st' IN TEXAS

Workers at the Leverton Cannery Co., Local 75 in Houston, Texas, won their first contract recently. In the five months since the plant went FTA in an NLRB election, the workers have gained a 15c an hour wage increase.

Improved working conditions include cleaner rest rooms, no uniforms required, more courteous treatment and lay-offs for just cause only.

The contract provides paid vacations and holidays, as well as higher bonuses and fairer minimums.

Fight Wage Threat

As in California and Arizona, anti-union bosses in Texas are trying to use imported labor as a wedge against FTA wage standards.

Following a reported conference of the Texas Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Growers and Shippers Assn. on the issue, FTA in the state has joined in setting up the "Inter-American Labor Relations Committee" to see that the use of such workers does not threaten union gains.

FTA Regional Director Harry Koger is chairman of the group, which has CIO, AFL, Farmers Union and civic leaders on it.

186 WINS NEW RAISE

Contract negotiations between Local 186 and Swinger & Binenstock Co. of Philadelphia, ended in a 10c an hour increase retroactive to March 7.

This is the third increase since V-J day for the local, bringing total gains to 25c an hour.

Vacations were increased to one week for one year and two weeks for three years.

Members of the negotiating committee were: John DeColla, Castro Cirello, and local organizer George Ardelean.

ELECT OFFICERS

At a recent membership meeting, Local 19, Memphis, Tenn., elected the following officers: John Mack Dyson, president; Emerson Dotson, vice-president; Roger Ford, recording secretary; Tom Roach, Harry Diggs and George Isabel, trustees; and Will Adams, sergeant at arms.

27 Join FTA In 2 Days

By Emma Howard, Reporter

Local 45 hit a new high by signing up 27 new workers in two days during negotiations for a new contract at the Larus Bros. leaf plant in Richmond, Va.

A 10 to 25c an hour increase was won by the local, retroactive to February 28, plus a 65c minimum, four paid holidays and other gains.

Negotiating committee members were Della West, Gladys Randolph, Bertha Jackson, Carrie Monroe, Will Harvey and Local Organizer Max Sussman.

At the Southern Biscuit Co., Local 57 won a $3.00 a week increase for cafeteria workers.

Members of Local 57's new grievance committee are: Adele Ellis, winner of the FTA merit award; Johnnie Falls and Elizabeth Brock, with Thelma Douglas as alternate.

273 Wins Raises

Increases ranging from 15 percent for lowest-paid workers to five percent for higher-paid workers were won at the E. Regensburg cigar shop with the signing of a new contract by Local 273 in New York.

Cigar machine operators were raised to $2.10 and $1.86½ per thousand. Cellophaners got a 15 percent increase, and other workers got from $2 to $6 raises. The raises are retroactive to December 1, 1946.

Local union representatives from the D. Emil Klein Cigar plants in Trenton, New York and New Brunswick met with management on April 2 to enforce seniority provisions in the contract.

With the plants going on a three-day week due to slack work, the company agreed to divide up the work and to give shop stewards top seniority.

Hold Your Hat

Hold your hat!—cost of the family food bill has crashed 8/10 of one percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announces in its latest report.

If you're not too drunk with joy, however, you'll read further in the same report that food prices are still 95 percent higher than August, 1939, and 31 percent over a year ago.

The riddle is to find where food prices dropped 8/10 of one percent, when fresh fruit and vegetable prices are three percent higher than mid-February, cereal and bakery products up one percent, and flour prices two percent.

What About Us?

MORE LOCALS SLAM U.S. AID TO FASCISM

FTA members in Northern California canneries have spoken sharply on two subjects—President Truman's intervention in Greece and Turkey and the hundreds of "forgotten" workers blacklisted in the two NLRB election campaigns in the California canneries.

The California CIO Cannery Council, representing workers from the five independent plants won by FTA in last summer's balloting plus blacklisted workers from other plants, voted unanimously in mid-March to:

1. Send a communication to President Truman protesting and opposing his proposals for intervention in Greece and Turkey.

2. Send a letter to Paul Herzog, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D. C., reminding him that " . . . the packing season in California canneries is drawing near once again . . . and there are several hundred California cannery workers who once again will not be allowed to work in the industry which has been their livelihood for many years."

The letter to Herzog urged the NLRB to move with all possible speed on the big FTA case before the Board which challenges the election held last year in which the AFL won a plurality but not a majority under conditions which gave the Teamsters terroristic advantage.

The letter also asks for court enforcement of Board orders in precedent-setting cases involving independent canneries which have already been decided in FTA's favor.

"These workers," the letter said, "have made great sacrifices for a cause which the Board's own decisions prove is just. Some of them have begun to feel that they have been forgotten by their government. We urge you not to forget your duty to these citizens."

The letter was signed by John Harnish, Council President, a member of Local 82, Modesto, and by Secretary Angeline Goularte, Local 50, Oakland, herself one of the blacklisted workers.

The letter to Truman, also signed by Harnish, said in part, "As working people who know what it is to be exploited, even here in America, we can only view with extreme alarm your proposals to bolster with bayonets an insecure and undemocratic Greek monarchy which we are sure the working people of Greece do not want."

The letter adds, "We also know that the cry 'Communist' is the one most frequently raised against us when we want more wages or better conditions. So you will pardon us if we view with some doubt your cries of a great 'Communist' menace."

Protesting the "Truman doctrine" of aid to fascist-ruled Greece and Turkey, these women, representing the Congress of American Women and some 26 other organizations, demonstrated in Washington, told their Congressmen to stick to the United Nations.

CIO OUTLINES FIGHT ON STATE GAG LAWS

"The fight against state anti-labor laws which are daily being passed is equally, if not more important than the fight in the Federal congress against national anti-labor laws," President Donald Henderson advised FTA leaders this week in a letter containing a study of the state laws.

The study, prepared by CIO General Legal Counsel Lee Pressman, covers laws passed in Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Nebraska, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Florida.

We must take the position in collective bargaining that these laws are unconstitutional and void, the Pressman study points out. Most employers, however, will use the laws as grounds for refusing to bargain on union security and checkoff. It is important therefore to prove the unconstitutionality of the laws through court test cases.

Constitutionality may be tested on one or more of the following grounds: 1) they impair freedom of contract and violate the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution; 2) they conflict with the Wagner Act in plants engaged in interstate commerce; 3) they violate the U.S. Constitution by overriding existing contract obligations; 4) they deprive the union of the right to collect payment for services to members; 5) laws prohibiting checkoff conflict with the Wagner Act since they cut down the area of collective bargaining.

Georgia is the only state so far where the law specifically applies both to existing contracts, and to contracts signed after passage of the law. In most states the law applies to new contracts. All of the laws cover all employes in the state without exception. They ban closed shop, union shop, maintenance of membership and preferential hiring. In Florida only, maintenance of membership clauses with escape periods are not subject to the law.

Method of enforcement is specified in Nebraska and Arizona. In Arizona, Florida and South Dakota the constitutional amendments are not self-enforcing although the state attorneys maintain that they are.

Checkoff of dues is not prohibited in Arizona, Florida, Nebraska or South Dakota. Checkoff provisions in these states are permitted in the following forms: as a service charge for all employes; checkoff covering life of contract for workers who become members during that time; revocable checkoff and individual authorization which can be made either revocable or irrevocable.

Substantially the same applies in Tennessee and Virginia but it is not allowed to become a condition of employment.

In Arkansas the contract may provide for dues payment as a condition of employment only if the union has the individual worker's voluntary authorization, or if he is a union member.

In Georgia, checkoff is permitted if the worker signs an authorization card which is revocable. Here too, non-payment may not become a basis for firing.

Penalties for violation of the state anti-labor laws depend on whether the general law of the state makes it a crime to violate a constitutional amendment. In Georgia, Arkansas and Tennessee violations are a crime punishable by fine or imprisonment or both.

The U.S. Supreme Court will have to give the final verdict, Pressman says, urging that the test cases be made as nearly "air-tight" as possible. Otherwise it will be difficult to get the Supreme court to pass on the constitutionality of the laws.

Test cases can be started by the union on the issue of noncompliance with a union shop contract. In states where violation of the law is a crime, the state official in charge of enforcement will initiate the case.

The best kind of test case is one where the plant is covered by NLRB certification, is engaged in interstate commerce and has plants covered by the same contract in other states where there are no anti-union laws. It is also important that the case be one which involves a maintenance of membership contract.

Van Camp Raise Won

Effective April 1, workers at the Van Camp Sea Food Company received an increase of 10c per hour across the board, eliminating the differential between men's and women's work and bringing the minimum rate for all up to $1.35 an hour. The minimum guarantee for all piecework, whose hourly take-home pay average under present piecework rates is $1.10, has been set at $1.20 per hour for beginners.

New machines being installed in the cannery which processes tuna fish, will pack approximately 15 percent of the fish formerly packed by hand. An agreement has been reached to increase the wages of the packers, whose work will be reduced 15 percent, by 15 percent as soon as the new machines are put into use. This means that the workers affected will not lose out on the labor-saving device being installed.

Local 64, to whom all the workers belong under a complete union shop, preferential hiring, check-off agreement with time and one-half after eight hours between seven AM and five PM and after five PM or before seven AM, is justly proud of the agreement. They are also proud to have paid their PAC contribution 100 percent and their $3.00 organizational assessment. Local 64 is at present organizing a new fish cannery which expects to go into production within the next month and since CIO wages are from 10 to 15 cents per hour higher than the AFL they are confident of success, unless a phony, "sweetheart" agreement is signed—which is not unlikely.

Brothers Gus Meza, president, Robert Galvan, Clarence Kiesling, Charles Castillo and Dixie Tiller and Sisters Agnes Adams, Secretary, Elsie Froelich, Katie Rodriquez, Ann Salazar were on the negotiating committee which obtained the above agreements.

PRAISE FTA IN SOUTH

Carey Haigler, director of the Alabama-Florida district for the CIO Organizing Committee, this week described FTA's victory at the Pasco Pacing Co. as "outstanding" in his district.

"Two of our outstanding victories to date in the district were at the world's largest citrus packing plant, the Pasco Packing Co. at Dade City, Fla., and at the B. F. Goodrich Co. plant at Tuscaloosa, Ala.," Haigler said.

"We won the Pasco election by a vote of 1,000 to 156—and this plant now has about 2,000 employes working under a good FTA contract. This contract provided something new for the citrus packing industry — overtime pay for all work done in excess of 40 hours a week.

"This was a big gain because the Wage and Hour law exempts citrus plants from paying overtime during 14 weeks each year and for another 14 weeks of the year permits work up to 12 hours a day and 56 hours a week before overtime is paid."

GAINS BY LOCAL 106

By Arthur A. Ernst, Reporter

Union shop with dues checkoff, time and a half for overtime, a 10c an hour increase, no discrimination clause, and $40 a week base pay for commission men, were some of the gains won by Local 106 in a contract signed with the Berks County Cooperative, Reading, Pa.

The contract also provides for the union and the company to work out a hospitalization insurance plan to be paid for by the employer. Wage gains are retroactive to December 1, 1946 and additional increases may be negotiated in six months.

Members of the negotiating committee were: Ward Miller, Warren Koch, Ernest Troutman, Gerald Shurr, Frank Oswald and Harold Ernst.

Negotiations at the Farmers Union Dairy Cooperative are now going on.

Local 106's educational program is in full swing with Edna Henne, Sara Phillips and Harry Brown serving as the education committee. They have initiated a joint educational program with the Berks County Farmers Union, United Electrical Workers Union, and the International Workers Order, keynoting the need for farmer-worker cooperation to organize unorganized farmers and workers.

At a recent meeting, Local 106 sent communications to Congressmen seeking action against the anti-labor bills. Other communications were sent protesting President Truman's program of military aid to the Greek monarchy and the pro-Hitler government of Turkey.

638, 101 Unite

Amalgamation of Local 638, Lancaster, Pa., and Local 101 in York, was accomplished this week for the purpose of strengthening the union and extending organization in the area. As a result of the amalgamation, former Local 638 president Miriam Cliff was elected business agent.

The Local PAC committee was increased to 10 members, and plans were made in conjunction with the Lancaster County PAC to carry out an intense political action education program in the county.

Local 638 will be represented at the Pennsylvania Industrial Union Council convention in Harrisburg April 23 to 25.

FARM WORKERS' NEEDS IGNORED

By Physicians Forum

Southern migratory farm workers need a federal health program badly. Like farm migrants in other parts of the country, their lives are hazardous and they cannot afford or obtain health service.

A farm worker's life is beset with dangers. Plantation owners and growers keep wages at starvation level. Traveling in dilapidated old jalopies or in trucks over bumpy country roads leads to many accidents. Also, on-the-job accidents from farm tools and machines are frequent.

Miserable housing and cooking arrangements add to the risks. Sanitation facilities are primitive. Even the usual filthy privy is not always available. Contaminated water and milk are often the only kind to be had, with resultant dysentery, typhoid and undulant fever. The migrants also suffer from malaria, hookworm, tuberculosis and other diseases.

Farm migrants cannot hope to afford decent medical care. They have no residency rights which would entitle them to at least charity medical services. Country hospitals, state tuberculosis and mental hospitals and similar institutions close their doors to the migrant.

In the South conditions are worst of all. Many of the Southern farm migrants are Negroes who are discriminated against at every turn. Health departments are often lacking or entirely inadequate. The South has 40% fewer hospital beds and doctors, in relation to population, than does the rest of the country. The hospitals which do exist are not so full as elsewhere because most southerners simply cannot pay for hospital care.

During the Roosevelt administration the federal government tried to do a little about this. Beginning in Farm Security Administration days and continuing in the labor branch of the Agricultural Dept., some funds have been appropriated to meet these needs.

This year only $400,000 is expected to be made available to an organization called the Migratory Labor Health Assn. It is financed entirely with these federal funds, and provides preventative, nursing, doctor, dentist and hospital services for farm migrants, especially those living in government camps. A 60-bed modern hospital is maintained in Belle Glade, Fla., for the care of southern migrants.

Yet even this modest program is now under attack by an economy-minded Republican Congress and a weak-willed administration and big growers fail to defend it. After the end of 1947 the program is to be liquidated and nothing has yet been proposed to take its place.

Time is short. Congress will probably adjourn in July and will not meet again until 1948. Labor should take its place alongside church, consumer, women's and other groups in supporting a federal health program for farm migrants. Without one, the nation will again see tragedies like those vividly described in John Steinbeck's "Grapes Of Wrath."

The Mailbag Brings . . .

To the Editor, FTA News
Dear Sir and Brother:

Just want to let you know that local 92's new contract at National Starch Co., which you reported in the March 1 issue of FTA News, went over with a bang. The gains we won helped pull our wages out of the cellar.

We want to thank our negotiating committee and especially our president, Owen Young, for the swell job they did to put Local 92 on the map.

Some of our members were nearly ready to sell out their fellow workers over the issue of tearing down the jim crow walls in the locker room. Now all of us, Negro and white workers, share the locker room together and it gives us a chance to get together on anything that comes up in the plant. We tore down the last wall by which the company tried to divide us.

Our back pay came through on March 21. This and our 12c per hour increase will help to pay for those dollar a pound pork chops. Good luck to all our brother locals.

Fraternally,
Glynn Forkener,
Local 92, Indianapolis, Ind.

STRIKING FOR A DECENT REST PERIOD
PLEASANT WORKING CONDITIONS ?? WHERE ??
THE ONLY "LANGUAGE" QUAKER OATS UNDERSTANDS
NO CONTRACT NO WORK

Restoration of the rest period the company tried to take away and pay raises came after these and other members of FTA Local 110 hit the bricks in front of the Quaker Oats plant in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

HEALTH, EDUCATION LAG FOR NEGROES

Health and educational services for the Negro people lag far behind even the inadequate services provided for the rest of the U. S. population. This glaring need for more Negro doctors, dentists, teachers, nurses, and other professionals is revealed in a study made by the United Negro College Fund.

The study found only one Negro physician for every 4,000 Negroes compared with one white physician for every 900 of the nation's population. Some 13,000 Negro doctors are needed today.

While there is one white school teacher for every 122 children in American schools, there is only one Negro teacher for every 201 pupils in segregated schools. There is a need for 42,000 more Negro teachers.

The same conditions exist in the dental, nursing and law professions. There are only 1,400 Negro dentists in America out of a total of nearly 70,000 dentists; 8,000 Negro nurses out of 400,000; and 1,000 Negro lawyers among a total of 176,000 attorneys.

One of the chief reasons for this gap is the jimcrow, segregation, and quota systems which exist in the training institutions and colleges throughout the country. Such practices affect not only the welfare of the Negro population, but they serve to undermine the health and welfare of the country as a whole.

COULD BE—

Headline in the "NAM News," official organ of the National Association of Manufacturers: "TRENDS IN PUBLIC OPINION—GOP, SOMEHOW, SAGS AGAIN."

GOP, somehow, sags again in the Gallup Poll, which reports a loss of six percentage points for GOP in public favor. Well, what could be the cause of it?

Could it be the cost of living?

Could it be the threat of anti-labor laws?

Could it be the people's fear of where our foreign policy—made and supported by the Republicans—is leading us?

For the very best answer to this, FTA News will send the winner absolutely free one (slightly used) back number of "NAM News."

FARM LEADER SEES RUIN FROM ANTI-UNION LAWS IN U.S.

Ruin faces the farmers if laws now pending in Congress push the workers' purchasing power back to the 30c an hour wages of the 30's, James G. Patton, president of the Natl. Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union, told the Senate Labor Committee in testimony recently.

Patton told the Committee that the farmer's income depends directly on the worker's purchasing power, that more and more profits for big shots don't mean more sales of farm produce, that labor must have a fair chance to raise wages to keep the economy going. FTA News prints excerpts from Patton's testimony here.

James G. Patton

"We are often told that every wage increase granted to industrial workers means a corresponding increase in the price we pay for farm supplies and machinery. This might have been true 100 years ago, but we know that industrialization has greatly increased the amount of productivity per worker and hence greatly decreased the proportion of total cost of manufactured goods, represented by the cost of labor," Patton said.

"It is our conviction that most of every extra dollar which finds its way into the pay envelope of a wage earner will be spent for something we raise on the farm. We are not convinced that extra bonuses to executives and stockholders of large corporations will be converted into more milk, more eggs, more meat and more fruit."

"Bills introduced with the purpose of regulating (the basic rights of workers) will not succeed in their purpose. Instead they will set off a chain reaction of protests which may actually cripple our delicately balanced economy.

"Purchasing power must reflect a large share of the technological improvements which increase the productivity of each worker. In fact, we consider it so important as to warrant guaranteed annual wages and much higher social security benefits.

"Legislation dealing with the basic causes of labor unrest has been promised, but not introduced. Nine-tenths of the problems you are seeking to solve by negative legislation would evaporate under the influence of such preventive measures as were called for by President Truman two years ago.

"We ask the committee to turn away all proposals to punish any group for the crime of reacting to the economic stresses and strains of an atomic age. The times call loudly for more intelligent analysis and resolution of the underlying causes."

WOMEN WORKERS NEED JOBS TO LIVE

No government can afford to ignore women workers in its overall planning,. This view is expressed by the Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, in its annual report to Secretary of Labor Schwellenback.

"Historically-determined social and economic factors," the report declares, "have assigned to women increasingly important roles in the wage-earning world." Chief among these factors, it continues, are the nation's need for the goods and services made and performed by women, and the economic need of millions of women to support themselves or supplement the family income."

Evidence of the nation's dependence on women, the Bureau pointed out, was the fact that during the war women made up over a third of all workers, further, the 16 million in the labor market today represent close to 28 percent of all employed persons. Prior to the war, women accounted for about a fourth of the total labor force.

The Bureau described as an "unwarranted assumption" the frequently made statement that with the end of the war women no longer had need for jobs. Fully 75 percent of the women interviewed in a survey of 13,000 women in 10 industrial areas expressed the desire for postwar jobs. Eighty-four in every 100 had to support themselves and, in many cases, dependents. Eight in every 100 still had other important uses for their earnings, to pay off debts, save toward the purchase of a home, or accumulate a nestegg for children's education. According to the Bureau's findings, only 8 women in every 100 worked solely because they liked to work.

FTA RECOGNIZED BY CALIF. INDEPENDENTS

Victory—long delayed but none-the-less sweet — came to FTA in California's San Joaquin valley this week when two canneries whose workers voted FTA last September, agreed finally to recognize and bargain with the CIO and to cease recognizing the AFL Teamsters.

Stanislaus Food Products of Modesto and Califruit Canning Company of Manteca, two of the five California independent canneries which voted FTA in NLRb balloting last September 1, have reversed their previous positions and agreed to bargain with FTA.

Bert Edises, FTA attorney, said he had received assurances from the offices of Paul St. Sure, the attorney who represents both companies, that the concerns will cease to recognize and require membership in the AFL Teamsters and will now negotiate contracts with FTA.

Of the five plants won by FTA, four are now bargaining or willing to. These are Pacific Grape Products, Modesto, Fruitvale in Oakland, Stanislaus in Modesto and Califruit in Manteca. The other plant, Stokely in Modesto, may not operate this year. If it does, Edises said, there are indications it may also reverse its previous position and bargain.

The reversal in form on the part of the two companies, who had refused steadfastly to bargain with FTA despite official NLRB certification, brought joy to some 20 workers who lost their jobs in the two plants because of their activities on behalf of FTA.

At Stanislaus there were definite assurances that blacklisted workers would be returned to their jobs with the start of asparagus in mid-April, although the question of back pay must still await formal NLRB hearing in Modesto May 5.

At Califruit the question of whether blacklisted workers would be back at their jobs was still unresolved, but prospects were bright they too would return.

FTA, AFL In Joint Strike

Workers of the Acme-Evans Milling Co. in Indianapolis, Ind., are on strike for a union shop, substantial wage increase, and inclusion of the international union as a party to the contract.

Local 84 notified the company January 27 that it was ready to open negotiations, and that if the contract was not completed by March 31, the workers would strike. At the company's request, a three-day extension was granted during which it continued to stall on negotiations.

On Friday, April 4, a brief meeting was held with the Acme-Evans management. Local 84 representatives, accompanied by C. R. Kinnaman, AFL Teamsters' business agent representing truck drivers in the plant, informed the company that the strike would be conducted jointly by the two unions for a union shop and substantial increases.

Production workers and truckmen have the plant shut tight.

FTA locals are urged to send financial contributions to Financial Secretary Gerald Leslie, c/o FTA Regional Office, 229 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Equality on the picketline is the bosses' substitute for equal pay in the plant. This woman member of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, on strike in Cleveland, O., gets an equal going over from the boss-owned cops, who don't discriminate when it comes to beating up strikers.